



The monthly magazine of Toc H

7p December 1971

POINT THREE



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December 1971

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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man
- 2 To give personal service
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

On the Cover:

Clearing the grounds of Whitmore Vale House. An account of this imaginative new mental health project, initiated by West Surrey District, begins on page 210.

Photo: P & M Photographic

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Letters and articles are welcomed but the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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VIEWPOINT

Over to you

Projects have come of age. No longer are they regarded as a fringe activity, of doubtful value, carried on by a few enthusiasts. Projects are now recognised as providing a new and relevant way of transmitting the Toc H experience to a new generation, and increasingly branches and Districts are becoming directly or indirectly involved in the planning and running of projects. One mark of this new status is the fact that the weekend at Alison House in October, at which representatives of each of the Regions discussed future project policy, was convened at the direct request of the Central Executive.

Several important points were brought out during the weekend which deserve wider discussion. Whatever may have been the situation in the past, projects are now clearly seen, both by those who take part and by the membership of Toc H as a whole, as part of the mainstream of Toc H. This vision, has, of course, certain practical consequences. For instance, if the present extensive project programme (750 young people were involved in Toc H projects this year) is to be maintained, let alone increased, more of the preparatory work will have to be done at District level. Liaison with the agencies for which we work and arrangements for accommodating the volunteers can best be made at local level, rather than by a member of staff travelling from a distance.

During the weekend we learned of the method, pioneered in Surrey but already adopted in several other places, of setting up project support groups. Such a small working team would be a sub-committee of the District Team, but could bring in other people with specific experience to offer. In particular it would be an obvious way of using any young people who have taken part in projects and have been commended to the District.

While there will always be need of 'one-off' projects, involving no continuing contact with the agency for whom we work, the possibility of using projects as part of an on-going Toc H job is being increasingly realised. Several of the projects in the South Eastern Region come into this category but the possibilities have probably been more fully developed in the Northern Area than anywhere else. In both Washington new town and the West End of Newcastle, for

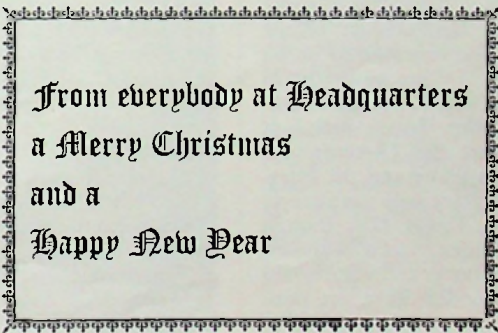
instance, Toc H is involved in long term attempts to build a new sense of community and the projects that have been run in these places have been simply one part of this continuing work.

Those present at Alison House stressed the need for weekend projects throughout the year as well as for one or two week projects during school holiday periods. Apart from being one of the ways in which we can maintain contact with those who have been on projects during the summer, such weekends can be useful as 'pilots' for possible new projects next year. Or they may, of course, be a part of the kind of on-going project mentioned in the last paragraph.

Not every District will feel itself to be in a position to set up a projects support group immediately, but every single branch can help to recruit young people to take part in projects. Posters advertising the projects for 1972 will be available in late January or early February, but it is only local branches who can ensure that these are prominently displayed in all schools and youth centres. So, think of the possible sources of recruitment in your neighbourhood and let your Regional office know as soon as possible how many copies of the poster you could usefully display.

Several people during the weekend said they felt that they were present at the rebirth of Toc H. Even in retrospect that judgement doesn't seem fanciful. The opportunities are almost limitless if we have the courage and the imagination to seize them.

K P-B



From everybody at Headquarters
a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

The Central Council, meeting at Swanwick, Derbyshire, over the November 6-7 weekend, heard an exciting proposal involving the sale of 15 Trinity Square and the move of the administrative offices of the Movement to Wendover. A special meeting of the Council to decide on this proposal is being held this month.

The Council agreed to take a fresh look at extension in rural areas and authorised the launching of a pilot survey.

The Council agreed that it would only consider motions 'of a political nature' if they sprang from the direct involvement of 'groups of members in a situation where human rights or values are being evaded, infringed or negated'.

Extension of the use of the new symbol was approved.

SALE OF HEADQUARTERS PROPOSED

**'Object to provide additional funds for development work,'
says treasurer**

An exciting and imaginative proposal, involving the sale of 15 Trinity Square, and the transfer of the main administrative offices of the Movement to the property owned by Toc H in Wendover, Bucks, was presented to the Council by the Hon Treasurer, George Liddle. The headquarters of the Movement will continue to be on Tower Hill in property made available to Toc H by the Wakefield and Tetley Trusts, and it is envisaged that the Director, the Headquarters Padre and the International Secretary will continue to be based on Tower Hill, though no final decisions as to who should move to Wendover and who should remain in London have yet been taken.

Since it had not been possible to give Councillors sufficient notice of the proposal the Council was not asked to make a final decision but to approve the calling of a special Council meeting for this purpose. The special meeting will be held in London on December 11. If the proposal is approved the move is likely to take place in August or September next year.

The Toc H property in Wendover was built in 1946 as a Services' club. When the RAF no longer needed such provision the building was let to a steel company, who converted it for office use. The property has now reverted to Toc H. It is in excellent repair.

George Liddle told the Council that our surveyors had advised that if we are prepared to sell 15 Trinity Square 'we should go out to tender rather than accept a private offer', and he stressed that it was a firm condition of going ahead with the proposal that 'the response to the invitation to purchase the property must produce a bid which our advisors consider to be at least its fair market value'. George said that the proceeds of the sale of headquarters would be invested and, allowing for the considerable costs involved in the move, were likely to provide Toc H with an additional income of about £36,000. He added that at the Finance Committee 'the question was asked whether the increased

investment income which would accrue would in fact make Toc H soft and complacent by removing some of its difficulties. The suggestion inherent in the question was rejected by all. We believe that so far from resting on their financial oars the membership will accept this evidence of responsible stewardship of our assets as a challenge to intensify their efforts to raise income for the Movement.'

'The object of the exercise,' said George, 'is largely to provide additional funds for development work. This substantial increase in our income will constitute a great challenge to this Council, to the Central Executive and its committees, and will lay on them all a great responsibility to ensure that it is used wisely and well to assist the prime work of Toc H, which is to further the establishment of God's will in the world.'

During the discussion which followed George's statement Tubby expressed his approval of the scheme, and added, 'Toc H remains committed to Tower Hill. We don't want to leave it altogether.' John Trimmer (Spring Parks) spoke for most of his fellow Councillors when he thanked George for 'making a recommendation of considerable boldness and imagination.'

Extension in rural areas

Pilot survey in Scotland approved

The Council approved a resolution calling for 'a fresh look at the vast rural areas in which the Movement has had no previous impact' and authorised the Scottish Area to undertake a pilot survey in one such area.

The resolution was proposed by Sheila Rowan-Hamilton (Scotland, North East), who said: 'It may be that Toc H action can best be directed to the problems of urban areas but sinews of war can be channelled from branches elsewhere. In Scotland, and no doubt in parts of England and of Wales, there are rural areas where Toc H is unknown. These rural communities are generally closely knit. Families are real social units and local activities are vigorously pursued. It is true that school leavers go away to universities or jobs in cities, but if they have already been interested in Toc H they can then be gathered into the urban net.'

Pat Brownlee (Scotland, Borders), who seconded the resolution, outlined the requirements for mounting the survey that the Scottish Area had in mind. These

would be: advance publicity over a build-up period; a four to six week campaign by two members of staff, Ian Russell (Scottish Area Secretary) and one other, preferably a projects officer; the use of 'Martha', the mobile caravan, both as an exhibition unit and to provide sleeping accommodation; and the involvement, where practicable, of existing branches. Pat said the cost of such a survey was estimated at about £300. 'If we tackle this extension survey now, while we have Ian Russell, who knows the people well and has contacts, we can succeed in our missionary obligation to the Movement.'

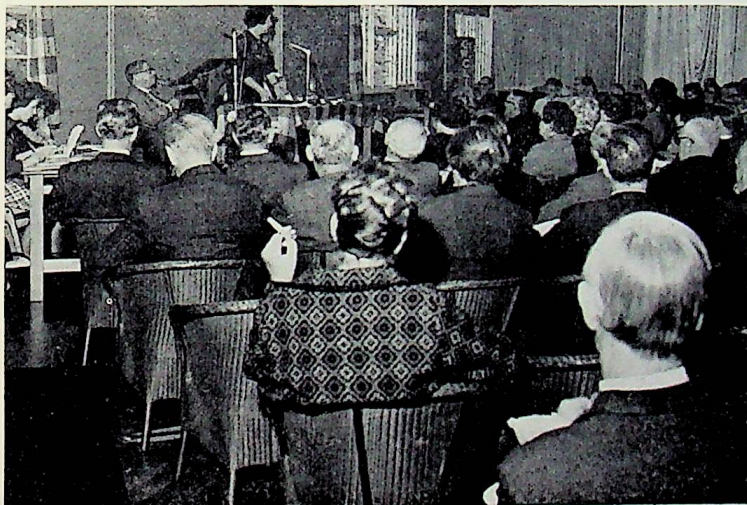
The resolution received widespread support. Keith Beck (Western Region staff), Nan Doidge (Cardiff), Mary Edwards (Bristol: West Mendip) and Mark Secker (East Surrey) were some of those who spoke in favour. But Mark stressed that this must be seen as additional to our present work, not as a replacement for work now being done in cities. 'We mustn't purely concentrate on the country,' he said. 'We must continue doing the work which we are now doing in urban areas.'

Council photos by Bob Broder

Central Executive

The following were appointed as the Central Executive Committee for the coming year:

Mrs Marjorie Berry, Harry Brier, Alan Brooke, Mrs Agnes Cook, Mrs Betty Cornick, Tom Gulliver, Tim Hulbert, Mrs Vera Inglis, Philip Jacques, Don Lockhart, Mrs Doris Longley, Harry Mills, 'Doc' Mitchell, John Morgan, Mrs Marcia Nicholson, Miss Kathleen Owen, Mrs Beryl Pugh, Mrs Janet Rauch, Mark Secker, Ralph Thorne and the Principal Officers (*ex-officio*).



Resolutions of a political nature should stem only from direct involvement

The Council agreed without dissent that 'motions of a political nature directed to HM Government should be placed before the Central Council for consideration only when these stem from direct involvement by groups of members in a situation where human rights or values are being evaded, infringed or negated.' In proposing the resolution Derek Whitehead (Warwickshire: North Cotswold) said: 'No one in Toc H will dispute that we are a Christian Family; nor that our fundamental purpose has been and must continue to be to change relationships between men and between generations. To achieve this we must surely work on the level of personal relationships and not on the level of resolutions. In an age where a need for protest is apparent and discontent appears on every hand we as a Family ought to think out afresh the question of what we do when motions dealing with the evasion, infringement or negation of the rights of our fellow men and women are presented to us.'

Derek Whitehead and Ken Broadfield (Birmingham) then proposed that 'all motions to the Council should be accepted for submission only when the proposer can first show that the motion has, at least, the support of a District within his or her constituency, thereby avoiding an individual Councillor placing before the Council proposals designed to promote that member's own particular subject'. This proposition aroused considerable controversy, and was finally carried by just three votes.

The debate in part revolved around the question of whether a Central Councillor is a delegate, required to do the bidding of his constituents, or a representative who takes into account the views of members in his own neighbourhood but is expected to vote

according to his own judgement. 'It is inconsistent,' said Derek Whitehead, 'for a Councillor not to seek support for a motion he wishes to propose from those whom he represents.' Ivan Whitehead (Lakeland South) was one of several Councillors who felt that the motion was irrelevant. 'This is what is done, or at least should be done, in all constituencies,' he said.

Concern was also expressed about whether the Central Executive found it necessary to refuse to accept motions in order to keep the agenda to a manageable length. It was stressed that all motions submitted were included on the order paper. The Central Executive sometimes suggested amendments to the wording in order to clarify the issue being raised, but such amendments were only made with the agreement of the proposers of the motion.



Derek Whitehead (Warwickshire: North Cotswold) successfully proposed two resolutions at this year's Council

Extended use of symbol approved

Alan Brooke as chairman of the Methods Committee proposed on behalf of the Central Executive 'that this Council approves the extension of the use of the new symbol for all Toc H purposes, including membership (and Builder and Associate) badges'. New badges and ties would only be introduced when existing stocks ran out.

'While it is true,' said Alan, 'that not everyone readily accepted the new symbol—because by tradition we are a nation where traditions die hard—it is fair to say that the majority of the membership saw sense in one symbol, applicable to the new integrated Movement. And I am sure I can fairly say that the new symbol is now generally accepted. It is essential that we present constantly—and in one form only—a symbol of recognition. At least one Region has discussed the further extension of the use of the symbol and the majority view has been "what are we waiting for?"'

Maud Endacott (Cromwell: Riverside) said that there was strong feeling in her constituency against changing the badge. And Peter Danmers (East Devon) said that this was change for change's sake. 'Tradition is respected in this country,' he added. Tim Hulbert (Central Executive), on the other hand, described the new symbol as 'more eye-catching' and said that this proposal was 'only the logical next step'. 'Instead of presenting different aspects and different images, let us have a united image,' he said. Charles Beale (South Sussex) said that he had used the new symbol on his vehicle and that it had had a considerable impact. The proposal was agreed by a comfortable majority.

Urgent need of reading material for gypsies

Eric Hodges (Swindon) reported on his District's continuing work with gypsies since the passing of the resolution pledging support for them at last year's Council. 'There is one big problem,' he said, 'which Toc H as a Movement could help in overcoming. Only about 10 per cent of gypsy children attend school. The vast majority can neither read nor write. The problem is aggravated by the lack of suitable reading material. What is needed is a series of books designed specially for gypsy children—a series with real gypsy-life situations. Some work on this has been done by Swindon District. One problem is who is going to publish the series. I think Toc H could and should involve itself in this.'

Eric also spoke about the formation, in which the Swindon District Team played a leading part, of the North Wiltshire Gypsy Council. Bob Knight (Headquarters Padre) told Councillors of his discussions with Lord Sandford at the Department of the Environment. The Department believed that 200 sites for gypsies were required, but only 40 had been established.



Sheila Rowan-Hamilton (Scotland: North East) proposes the extension of Toc H in rural areas

Decentralisation in the north

Ralph Thorne (Central Executive) reported on the progress made towards decentralisation of the Northern Region since last year's Council meeting. After careful discussion the basic outline had been agreed between the Region and the Central Executive. A Regional Council, consisting of the 23 elected Central Councillors, had been formed and would meet twice a year. At its first meeting, on September 25, an Executive Committee had been elected. The Executive would meet for the first time on November 20 with the task of agreeing a budget for the Region with the Central Executive, so that the three year experiment could officially start on April 1, 1972. Ralph described the basic purpose of the experiment as 'putting the responsibility for the Northern Region where it belongs—in the local situation. The responsibility of Central Councillors will be greater than ever before. This is an effort to get the responsibility where it should lie.'



Tom Gulliver, Vice-Chairman of the Central Executive

Director speaks of Christianising influence

'We are an organisation with a Christianising influence in this world of today, where so many people are looking for influence, looking for guidance, looking for principles,' said Sandy Giles (Director) in presenting the Annual Report. 'Both as an organisation and as individual members we can affect the climate of opinion and see that Christian principles are not lost for lack of defence'. Sandy spoke of some of the ways in which 'the various parts of Toc H are learning from each other'. He stressed the value of the visits paid to this country during the year by Toc H leaders from overseas and mentioned particularly the visit of Sir Edmond ('Ned') Herring, our President in Australia.

In presenting the accounts George Liddle (Hon Treasurer) paid a warm tribute to Keith Rea, who will be taking up his new duties as our Commissioner in BAOR on January 1. 'Keith has been in the finance department for many, many years,' he said, 'and has been Finance Secretary for over seven years. He has been an enormous help to me. He is utterly and completely committed to Toc H and does a tremendous job.' George went on to welcome Keith's successor as Finance Secretary, George Barnett.

More Council News on page 220



Betty Cornick took the Chair at the Council flanked by Sandy Giles (Director) on her right and Gilbert Francis (General Secretary)

The vocation of South Africa's Coloureds

The author of this article, Robert Clucas, is an Anglican priest from South Africa. He has spent several weeks at Talbot House on Tower Hill while in England to raise funds to establish a new private school in Port Elizabeth, primarily for Coloured boys and girls.

When I am talking to an English or American group on the subject of South Africa, I find it is essential to clearly define what the South African means by 'Coloured', as this term means something more specific than just anyone who is not White.

In South Africa, the population is divided (somewhat arbitrarily) into several classifications. First in privilege are the White group. They, presumably, are descendants of purely European stock, though nowadays one has only to prove that one's family has been accepted as White for three generations to satisfy the authorities. In fact, a very large number of 'White' people have other than Europeans among their ancestors. An Afrikaner professor has calculated that at least 7 per cent of 'White' ancestry is non-European. Another group are the Indians whose ancestors came, by invitation, to Natal to help with farming. They are subject to travelling restrictions, and may not reside in the Orange Free State. A very small group are Chinese. They may attend White cinemas, receive permission to attend White private schools, and live in a White area providing no-one objects, but they may not marry a White partner. The largest group are the Black or African group, called 'Bantu' (a name meaning people, probably given them by the government because African sounds too much like Afrikaner). This group is subjected to so many restrictions that it would be difficult to enumerate all of them. Each member must always carry a pass (or reference book as it is euphemistically called), and is subject to strict control regarding freedom of movement, eligibility for jobs and right of entry into buses, lifts, post offices, etc etc ad nauseam.

The people who are called Coloured are racially mixed. They are descended originally from an admixture of White settlers, Malay slaves, Hottentots, and some Black slaves who were imported from Central Africa. They originated in Cape Town, the oldest city in South Africa, and their culture is basically Western. They played a vital part in the development of Afrikaans as a distinctive language, though many are rejecting this language today, seeing it as a language of oppression, and speaking only English to their children. Later in their history, those who moved north sometimes intermarried with the

Africans who were moving south (incidentally, the original inhabitants of the southernmost tip of Africa were Hottentot and Bushmen, yellow rather than black-skinned, and not, in the generally accepted sense of the term African or Negroid). In Natal there has been added a proportion of Indian blood. In fact, all the races or nationalities which have come to South Africa have given of their blood and cultural heritage to the Coloured people, though the basic ingredients are White, Malay and Hottentot, and not White and African, as many White South Africans, and most people from overseas, assume.

With Cape Town as their home, the Coloured people were, for generations, in closer touch with the civilisation of Europe, the liberal movement that stemmed from the French Revolution and the philanthropic movement from England, than many of the Dutch settlers who trekked inland and lived in semi-isolation for over a century. Yet in spite of their intelligence, rapier wit and expert skills, their breadth of experience and heritage, they have been, for most of their history, a despised and rejected and subordinated people. Many have been undermined both by the 'Tot System' (part payment in wine rather than cash for farm labour) and the frustration of ability and ambition in a system which reserved the dominant positions for Whites.

Yet I believe that their history has given them a supreme opportunity to lead a peaceable movement for change in South Africa. They are an in-between people. Though their heritage is mainly Western, they have absorbed into this heritage traditions of the East, from their Malay and later Indian links, and of the African, as both spread and met and mingled throughout the sub-continent. From being an in-between people, they can find (and are finding) a vocation to be a go-between people. In spite of being despised and rejected of men, a people of sorrows and acquainted with grief, they have retained their courage as did a Carpenter of Nazareth, who would probably be classified as Coloured if He came to South Africa today.

Years ago I wrote a play on the theme 'What would happen if Christ came as a Coloured man to South

Africa today?' It was the story of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, translated into South African terms. In it Christ calls the Coloured people to be his missionaries, spreading love and brotherhood throughout South Africa. Today I feel that the Coloured people are beginning to realise this vocation. Politically the vast majority stand for non-racialism—not merely Coloured equality with White, but equality of opportunity for all.

For me, the Coloured man is the South African par excellence, in whom and with whom, we, African, Indian and White South African, will one day find our identity as 'Ware Suid Afrikaners' (True South Africans). The Coloured people do not need to look for their identity, all they have to do is to courageously recognise what they already have. The task of searching is up to the rest of us, and the task of the Coloured man is to act as our guide, for the Coloured South African is already Black, is already White, is already Indian, while the rest of us are only one of the three, and the Coloured man can help the rest of us to find each other. If this finding of each other with the help of the Coloured people of South Africa is done in the name and power of Christ, what a glorious discovery that is going to be. The discovery of ourselves as a nation might not be for some time, but the discovery of our South African self as individuals can begin tomorrow, unless we are content to remain isolated in our Black, Indian and White ghettos, and the Coloured man, who, although he can be territorially ghettoed cannot be spiritually ghettoed, refuses to help us.

Welcome Point

The following branches elected new members during the month of October:

- 4—Uckfield (w).
- 3—Blaenau Festiniog (m), Kirkby Lonsdale (w), Porlock (m).
- 2—Coningsby (m), East Barnet (m), Marshalswick (j), Prestonpans (m), Southborough (m).
- 1—Accrington (j), Acton (w), Ashford (w), Bracknell (j), Buckingham (m), Caister-on-Sea (m), Calstock (m), Central (j), Downend (w), Eastcote (w), Felpham (m), Glenrothes (j), Gloucester (j), Great Yarmouth (w), Hagley (m), Hartlepool (w), Hook & District (m), Long Eaton (w), Nailsea (m), Owton Manor (w), Preston Park (j), Ramsgate (m), Ripley (m), Scottish Area (j), Syston (m), Thurrock (m), Wellington (w), Westham (w), Wigmore (m), Wroughton (w).

We extend a warm welcome to the 53 new members.

**Make Hovis
your
daily bread.**

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In August: Thomas L Aldridge (East Anglia Area), Gertrude Farrar (York), Annie E Simpson (York).

In September: Kathleen Hartley (Harborne), William McManus (Mold), Freda M Morgan (Perry Bar), Hubert V Naylor (Barnsley), Emma L Roffe (Spalding), George E Taylor (Eltham).

In October: John A Bramley (Anstey), Sylvia L Cartwright (Central), Samuel J Cotgrove (Welwyn Garden City), Marshall Field (Leamington Spa), Baden-Powell Giddy (Rhiwbina), Elsie M Hall (Malton), Caroline Harrison (Deal & Walmer), David Hughes (Leamington Spa), Wilfred E Johnson (East Midlands Area), Herbert H Locke (Cuffley & Golfs Oak), Florrie Mason (Birmingham).

We give thanks for their lives.

A BARREL ORGAN IS WIDER THAN A HORSE

Charles Potts

After lengthy negotiations and considerable frustration, but disowning discouragement, I managed to secure the loan of a barrel organ from a Mr Tom Doling of Romsey. A friend of mine from Brockenhurst, Capt Ken Tod, RN Retd (not Ken Dodd), agreed to borrow a horse box to collect the barrel organ, bring it to Lymington and return it to Romsey with my aid. All promised to be a fairly simple undertaking.



I applied to Lymington Borough Council for permission to play a barrel organ on a Saturday, market day, in Lymington High Street. The Town Clerk's department informed me that I should apply not to them, but to the police. I applied to the police, who informed me that I should apply to the Town Hall. I telephoned the Town Clerk's office and was asked to apply to the Town Clerk in writing. I finally received a reply stating that there would be no objection provided that I complied with police instructions. I took this letter to the police and later received a written reply stating that they had no objection provided I did not obstruct vehicles or pedestrians. All was now set to provide a great musical treat for the inhabitants of, and visitors to, Lymington.

In due course I set out for Brockenhurst and picked up Ken Tod, who directed me to a riding school about a mile off. Alas! not a horse box but a battered and ancient Land-Rover and enormous low sided trailer were put at our disposal, provided we first removed its contents, about a ton of timber. En route to Romsey the Land-Rover's engine stalled on several occasions and had to be restarted by a combined operation of turning the ignition key and finger fiddling with a wire under the dashboard.

The barrel organ was stored at Strong's brewery, in a warehouse. Mr Tom Doling, who works at the brewery, was found and led us to the warehouse in front of which were piled about 50 empty beer crates, many of which had to be moved before we could extract the barrel organ. Mr Doling was very worried when he saw our form of transport. He too had expected the promised horse box. To the best of our ability we roped the barrel organ to the trailer, but it was very wobbly on its two sprung wheels and rickety one legged iron support. It was a genuine antique, worm eaten and senile, but Mr Doling demonstrated that it played six tunes, of a sort, all unrecognisable. He obviously loved it dearly; it was with anxious trepidation that he watched us drive it

away. In order to ensure its security I had to sit on the hard edge of the trailer and hang on to the barrel organ shafts, a precarious and indescribably uncomfortable operation when in motion. Whatever springs the trailer may have possessed in the past had undoubtedly given up their utility. Mr Doling's last words were 'Don't let it get wet'.

After comparatively few engine stalls in the narrow confines of Romsey we escaped onto a dual carriageway and were making fair speed when the roof of the barrel organ flew off. I yelled to Ken, who stopped the Land-Rover. I leapt out, grabbed the escaping object and we refitted it and roped it down. But Ken could not start again because we were facing uphill and the hand brake of the Land-Rover would not function. We placed a brick under a back wheel and he was then able to start. Not wishing to leave the brick on the highway, I picked it up, chased the Land-Rover, heaved the brick into it and leapt aboard while it was moving. After but a few more *contretemps* we reached Lymington and off-loaded the barrel organ, with the aid of two worthy bystanders, and I trundled it into my garage.

After a week's glorious sunshine, Saturday morning dawned with pouring rain. Volunteer organ grinders and handlers, including an excellent non Toc H member (as yet) called Reggie Veale, whom I fetched from Lyndhurst, collected at my house. In view of Tom Doling's prayer that we did not allow his precious possession to get wet, we could not take it out. All helpers but Reggie departed. It was half past eleven by the time the rain stopped; then Reggie and I wheeled it out, not without considerable effort as it weighed about half a ton—or so it seemed. We took our stance in front of the post office and took it in turns to grind the organ. An hour or so later other helpers arrived to give us some respite and to shake money boxes in front of defenceless passers by. We carried on until five o'clock in the afternoon. The result: £21 for the Family Purse. If only we had been able to start at 9 o'clock in the morning, I am sure that we should have raised £30 to £40 at least.

Ken Tod managed to borrow a proper horse box trailer from Burley for the return journey, the only snag being that we had to remove the central partition. It might be worth noting for future reference by potential organ grinders that a barrel organ is just one inch wider than any horse is ever expected to be! This time I sat on the little metal seat allocated to a

Letters

More money the easy way

Highams Park branch, London, has received praise and congratulations from headquarters for a project which has cost them nothing financially.

Some weeks ago the branch chairman mentioned to the members the subject which George Barnett of HQ had written about, that is, covenanting our monthly subscriptions. All each member who pays income tax has to do is to sign his or her name on a covenant form, promising to pay the subscription for seven years. Without any further liability, HQ would receive 63p income tax rebate for every pound. The chairman just asked the members to think about it, as he thought it was worth considering. He was not too hopeful, but he did not reckon on the treasurer, Billy Meopham.

Billy caught the message and thought how much it would benefit our contribution to the Family Purse. So he wrote to George Barnett for some covenant forms, and quietly called upon each member to ask if he or she would sign.

Of the 24 members in the branch, 20 signed covenants.

George Barnett was so pleased with Billy's effort and Highams Park branch's help that he congratulated all concerned and said that if only other branches would do the same the deficit on Toc H funds would be easily cleared.

Why not write to George Barnett for the forms?
All the details are supplied.

E J Pritchard Woodford Green, Middx

A barrel organ is wider than a horse

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groom. We padded it with straw and the journey was much more comfortable, though I was still mighty glad that I wear a steel-ribbed corset to support my groggy spine. Mr Doling received us and his treasure with open arms. He was so relieved to find it ostensibly unimpaired that he offered to lend it again some time. A fair offer, but I would happily give way to anyone who would volunteer to take my place as a barrel organ groom. I'll lend them my decorated top hat and striped jersey.

Message tapes

Now that the Leisure Activities Exhibition is over I must write and thank Huw Gibbs for the ideas and suggestions he gave us. Before his visit we worried so much about it all. He was right to say that friends outside the Movement would help in signwriting, drawing, and loaning of requirements. What a chance to bring them all into contact with Toc H. The building of the stand brought a fellowship much enjoyed.

Our theme was message tapes from the elderly to relatives at home or overseas—tapes have been sent to the USA, Australia, Singapore, Rhodesia and Canada. This is all free. We add to the tape a suggestion of a message back, perhaps to give a grandparent a chance to hear the voice of a grandchild she has never seen. One cannot but feel the true value of this effort.

At the exhibition members, Associates and Builders took their turn in stewarding and answering the many questions.

George Moore Saffron Walden



The Toc H stand at the Saffron Walden exhibition included a tape recorder and a map showing some of the places in different parts of the world to which tapes have been sent.
Photo: David Campbell

The easiest way to make
ends meet is to get up off
your own

The first of many? An exciting new project in the mental health field is described by Ken Prideaux-Brune

An ambitious and exciting project, which could well be repeated in other parts of the country, has been launched by a Housing Association set up by the West Surrey District of Toc H. West Surrey members Tony and Ruth Brock-Gunn led the band of enthusiasts mainly responsible for getting the scheme off the ground and have been appointed the wardens of the project. The Association has purchased Whitmore Vale House, near Hindhead in Surrey, and is establishing there a real home for a number of mentally sub-normal patients who would otherwise have no alternative but to remain in hospital. The need for this kind of hostel is being increasingly recognised by all concerned with the problem of mental sub-normality in this country. To remove patients from the institutional atmosphere of a hospital is an essential first step in their rehabilitation, and it also makes economic sense. The project is, therefore, being closely watched by those working in the mental health field and could well set a pattern for the future.

Whitmore Vale House will eventually accommodate 23 but Tony intends to accept residents a few at a time so as to be able to get to know them individually.

The basic aim is to provide the kind of environment that will enable them to move out into the community rather than back into hospital, by helping them to take increasing responsibility for their lives. Some residents may also be accepted direct from the community. By providing a period of protection from the stresses of life the necessity of taking them into hospital may be avoided. 'We realise only too well,' says Tony, 'that we are not going to produce an efficient person able to be left unsupervised to carry out any given task, but we do hope to teach them a higher standard of personal hygiene and a greater sense of civic responsibility so that their share in community life will be a real one.'

In addition to the main house there is a range of timber built chalets which will be used to provide holidays for up to 24 sub-normal children. In some cases whole families may also come for holidays. These holidays will rely heavily on volunteer help and are likely to feature largely in future Surrey Area summer work project programmes. During the remainder of the year the chalets will be available to Toc H and to other organisations for conferences of



up to 15 people, using the conference room in the main building.

Although legal responsibility for the project is in the hands of the Whitmore Vale Housing Association it is nonetheless very much a Toc H venture. The idea was originally put forward as a Jubilee project but then dropped. Social workers from Botley's Park Hospital in Chertsey approached the West Surrey District in June 1968. The idea of a 'halfway hostel' was accepted enthusiastically by the District, which was at that time looking for a focus for its growing membership. Quite apart from the need for project parties to help with the holidays for children, the long term residents will require the friendship and support of members of local branches. Here then is a project that will need a contribution from all aspects of Toc H, and the energies and abilities of young and old.

Any District thinking of embarking on a project of this kind might well be daunted by the prospect of buying a building worth close on £30,000. In fact, however, finance has been a very much less serious problem than finding a suitable property and getting the necessary planning permission for it. The purchase price has been covered by a mortgage from the local authority. Residents will all be out at work and will contribute what they can for their accommodation.

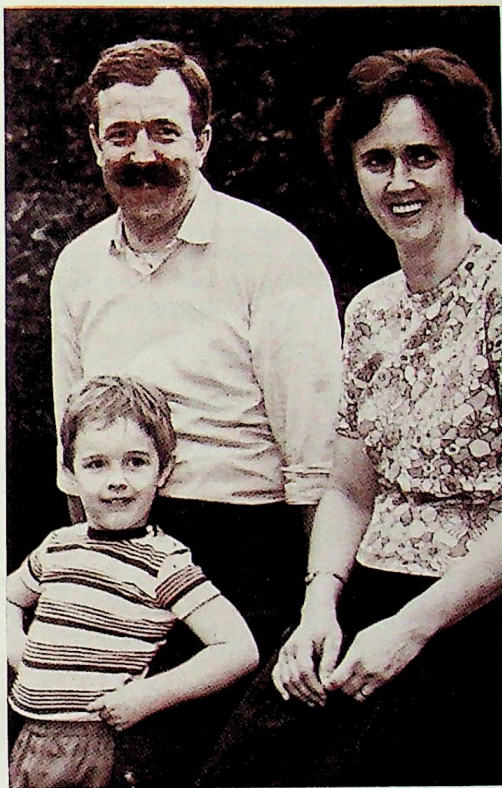
Right: Tony and Ruth Brock-Gunn, the prime movers in the Whitmore Vale project, with the elder of their two sons, Simon. Tony is giving up his job with Air Traffic Control at London Airport to become the warden of Whitmore Vale.

Left and below: In addition to the work being done by members and Volunteers, Whitmore Vale has been adopted as a special project by the Hampton Junior Council of Churches. Members of church youth groups in Hampton and Hampton Hill, Middlesex, spent the first of many weekends at Whitmore Vale at the end of September, cutting pathways through dense woodland and demolishing stone walls in preparation for building extensions. While the buildings, erected in 1902, are in a good state of repair, the six acres of grounds have been allowed to grow wild for more than 30 years. A local forester also gave his time that weekend, and loaned his Land-Rover and power saw.

Photos: P & M Photographic

The balance of the full economic figure (including mortgage repayments) will be paid by the local authority for the area from which they come. An appeal has been launched—and £7,000 has already been raised—to pay for certain essential alterations and to cover the expenses for the first six months, before the house is fully operational. After that, the project should be financially viable.

Toc H leaders in Surrey have frequently stressed the need for each District to have at least one major project, which could draw together in a common concern members, volunteers and those at present not involved with the Movement. Such projects would be a focal point for Toc H concern locally, would stimulate recruitment and would boost the morale and the self-confidence of the existing membership. Clearly the Whitmore Vale project fits into this pattern. Equally clearly it is a project that puts Toc H in the vanguard of current thinking about the methods of dealing with the problem of mental sub-normality. It is a project which could probably be repeated in any District where there are two or three people with the drive and the imagination to see it through. However this may be, there can be no doubting the enthusiasm that has been generated among members and friends in West Surrey now that the years of planning and hoping are over and the project is at last in being.



TALKING POINT

A book for Christmas

Bob Knight

I would like to persuade you to try a book of poetry. To resort to poetry would for some be even more sinister than turning to religion and going to Church. Yet both poetry and worship open up the dimensions of life, and many of the poems in *Poetry 1900-1965*¹ are unexpectedly religious.

Unexpectedly because ours is thought to be a century of disillusionment, and because many of the authors in this anthology are confessed critics of organised religion. Philip Larkin, born in 1922 and still writing, assumes that the time will come when church going will cease and wonders to what use the buildings will then be put.

Shall we avoid them as unlucky places?
Or, after dark, will dubious women come
To make their children touch a particular stone?

They do that already in broad daylight in churches on the tourist routes. Larkin questions why we look round churches.

A serious house on serious earth it is,
In whose blent air all our compulsions meet,
Are recognised, and robed as destinies.
And that much never can be obsolete,
Since someone will forever be surprising
A hunger in himself to be more serious.

This is the art of the poet to construct a few sounds which describe a feeling of which we were unaware, and something in the reader responds. The experience is similar to an encounter with a painting, or the sound of music, affording a glimpse of that same dimension that worship gives, but too rarely.

Not all poetry is serious, however. John Betjeman's lyric describing the courtship of Miss Joan Hunter Dunn is so famous because he succeeded in writing a humorous love poem.

Love-thirty, love-forty, oh! weakness of joy,
The speed of a swallow, the grace of a boy,
With carefullest carelessness, gaily you won,
I am weak from your loveliness, Joan Hunter Dunn.

Stevie Smith can take her readers into another's predicament with something like a smile of recognition.

I was much further out than you thought
And not waving but drowning.

On the record where some of the authors read their own work, she conveys her gentle pathos unerringly.

I was much too far out all my life
And not waving but drowning.

In our poetry the alternating moods of pessimism and optimism of this century are reflected. The lines of T S Eliot.

This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper
have become familiar even to some who do not know he is the author. That conclusion of *The Hollow Men* was written in 1925, eight years after Rutherford first split an atom of hydrogen in his laboratory at Cambridge. Eliot went further and developed grounds for hope in *Little Gidding*.

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time . . .

A condition of complete simplicity
(Costing not less than everything)
And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well
When the tongues of flame are in-folded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.

Eliot's echoes of the fourteenth century mystic, Mother Julian of Norwich, put the worst anxieties of this century in a true perspective.

Thus the poet like all creative artists, in showing us what he can discern, makes us more sensitive. In R S Thomas the poet and the parson are combined and the focus of his attention is back on the characters in his parish, in mid-Wales. One to whom he frequently returns is a ploughman.

Fun? Pity? No word can describe
My true feelings. I passed and saw you
Labouring there, your dark figure
Marring the simple geometry
Of the square fields with its gaunt question.

Rural or industrial, individual or community, the question repeatedly asked in this century is 'What is the significance of human life?' Yet after all, it is not a new question. It was posed at Bethlehem, and Christmas is a reminder that it is fundamental. Each of us, and the community we create, is an answer.

¹ *Poetry 1900 to 1965*, editor George MacBeth, Longman 70p

NEWSPOINT

CHILDREN INVADE WEST PINCHBECK

John Orange, Point Three Correspondent

For those of us who were brought up during the era of the 'Dead End Kids' on the large screen, or who revelled in the weekly exploits of 'Thick Ear Donovan' in *The Wizard*, the idea of anything quite like it in real life was taken with a very large pinch of salt. The peaceful countryside of the 1930's was shaken only by the rumble of a passing traction engine or a team of horses bringing in the harvest. All this was, of course, before the 'telly' put us wise to the problems which even at that time must have been very commonplace in the cities and the industrial areas far from that part of rural England where we country johnnies were nurtured.

West Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire is such a place—was such a place that is until the invasion which occurred last summer.

Bryn Chappell, secretary of West Pinchbeck branch, told me in a letter which read like the communiqués we used to receive from the battle fronts during the last war, just what happened on that day.

25 girls (girls?), age range 8 to 15 years, arrived in the village at one pm. Two minutes later the apple tree in a neighbour's garden had been stripped bare of fruit in a manner that would have done credit to a plague of healthy locusts just landed on a favourite crop at lunch time.

The children in question were a contingent of under-privileged girls from Leicester who, through the co-operation of Toc H United branch, Leicester, the NSPCC and West Pinchbeck Toc H, had been invited into the country for a day out. So, two minutes after disembarking from the transport provided by Leicester Welfare Department—no apples left. Following their *bors-d'oeuvres* they immediately tucked into a packed lunch before the afternoon's activities, which

were curtailed owing to a violent thunderstorm. During the next hour all hell broke loose in the Toc H rooms as rousing games of musical chairs etc, went with a swing.

Fortunately the sun soon reappeared and a walk to the nearby playing field was followed by strenuous (for the Toc H members) games of football, rounders and cricket in a somewhat soggy arena. The highlight of the afternoon for the kids was pony riding organised by a young lad from the village.

Back in the Toc H room a tea of 'bangers', beans and chips, with jellies for afters, seemed to go down well with children and helpers alike. Another short, sharp burst of games and into the transport for home.

The journey back was apparently uneventful except for a foot being put through a window. Ten West Pinchbeck members and wives had a hectic but enjoyable day as indeed did the children.

Upon reflection at a later branch meeting, when individual cases were being discussed, it was agreed that these hard bitten youngsters, none of whom looked like ever

getting much of a chance in life's rat race, would in turn become the problem parents of the next generation, and that this would continue until everyone with a conscience learned to sort out the priorities in a so called civilised society.

Leicester's lively new group

Among those who attended the East Midlands Area weekend at Dor Knap in September were six members of a newly formed group called Toc H United. According to Gillian Walker (hon. staff, Peterborough) 'they came apprehensively, feeling they would be out of place with the older members. However, it was proved that young and old can enjoy each other's company'. Toc H United is a mixed group, numbering about 20, ranging in age from 16 to 25. They are, according to Area chairman Ken Darby, 'experimental in outlook, enthusiastic, lively, original and keen on projects'. The group was, incidentally, responsible for the children's invasion of West Pinchbeck reported on this page.

Hereford purchase holiday chalet

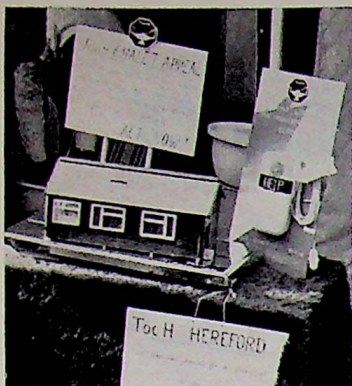


Photo: Harold Bayliss

Members in Hereford have raised £900 in less than two months to purchase a furnished chalet at Clarach Bay near Aberystwyth at which they will be providing holidays for the handicapped. The branch has been offering a fortnight's holiday to handicapped people for some years but the chalet rented for this purpose will not be available next year. The decision to buy a chalet was fully backed by the District Team and a whirlwind fund-raising campaign was launched as a District project. A gift shop in Hereford brought in

£530 in one week. An approach to Toc H Builders in the District resulted in a cheque for £100 from one Builder. Collections at the annual show and at the fairground also raised substantial amounts. The project brought the Movement a great deal of favourable publicity and, in the view of at least one member, revitalised the District Team. Incidentally, we were happy to learn from Ron Sanders, the secretary and treasurer of the chalet project, that the idea was sparked off by an article in *Point Three*.

A co-operative effort

Tom Dent

About a year ago it occurred to some members of Harpenden branch that Toc H and several other local branches of national organisations which were not big enough to run a money raising effort by themselves frequently assisted at fairs and bazaars for the benefit of other 'good causes' and that if they combined to hold such an event and shared the proceeds they might do some good to their own funds. Other societies were circularised and so agreed to join in. A committee was formed with a Toc H chairman, a Toc H secretary and the wife of a Toc H

member (a representative of another society) as treasurer. It was called Harpenden Village Fayre and a great many people worked hard on the project. There were many anxieties, but it turned out an event which everyone enjoyed and which made a handsome profit of £700. This was divided by each stall taking half of its net profit and the balance being paid into a pool which was divided equally among all the societies concerned. The beauty of the affair was the co-operation of everyone and the many new friendships which it made.

COFFEE BREAK

Shoppers in the busy Chingford town centre are familiar with this excellent home made sign, and happily drop in to meet local Toc H members. And the branch know a thing or two about publicity. They place their coffee break sign on the main bus routes. They were also among the first branches to order the new vinyl vehicle and branch premises signs. No-one should therefore be surprised to learn that Chingford Toc H is a bustling, thriving branch with an excellent reputation.

Photo: Pat Thomas



Caravan holidays for handicapped

If you were asked to advise a handicapped person on a suitable holiday, a caravan is probably the last thing you would think of. But the Wolverton (Bucks) branch caravan has been specially adapted for use by those in wheelchairs. There is a wooden ramp with a handrail up to the van for easy access, and several handrails inside.

The first person to use the newly converted caravan was Mrs Maisie Kirk, who has been confined to a wheelchair for the past two years. She and her daughter had a week's holiday as guests of Toc H. Another of this year's guests was Leslie English, who spent 12 days in the caravan with his wife, his first holiday for 20 years. Leslie, who has been paralysed from the waist down since being wounded while doing his National Service in Malaya 20 years ago, is a keen fisherman and was able to wheel himself to a nearby lake and fix his rod onto the chair for a quiet afternoon's fishing. Life in the confines of a caravan presented no problems to Leslie. 'I tried washing and drying up and even used the oven. I found I could do everything very well, and if I could do these things, then I think 95 per cent of others handicapped could manage as well.'

'We know what we're about'

Gilbert Francis tells South Western Area Conference

Fred Evans, Paignton branch

'Members of Toc H should not sell themselves short. Our Movement is an effective, practical one, recognised nationally as "the Movement which gets things done". We have a purpose and know what we are about, and we have confidence that we can carry this into the 70's and on into the 80's.'

So said Gilbert Francis, General Secretary of Toc H, at a recent weekend held at the Torbay Chalet Hotel, Paignton, presided over by John Hebditch, of South Pertherton, Area chairman. Some 120 members attended from branches throughout the West Country.

The weekend's theme was *Toc H in the 70's*. After giving a resumé of the set up and continuing work of Toc H Gilbert commented on what should be the aims, objects and meaning of the Movement in the future. Toc H, he said, is a caring society, not a business, and is compassionately concerned about men and women. It is a Movement which must move and, if necessary, rebuild in order to face the challenges which come in this age of a changing society. This may mean that old methods have to be supplanted by new methods based on more flexible ideas and thinking. Local branches, Area and District teams should be prepared to take the lead, not merely follow, in planning the progress and projects of Toc H in their own Areas, and thus ensure their influence reaches headquarters. Young people, he emphasised, need a challenge but it must involve more than just doing a job, they need to realise that our work is only valid if concerned with people. Toc H has a contribution to make to society as a voluntary Movement, without undertaking the work of Social Security.

The main points raised during group discussion were: that the effectiveness of Area and District Teams should be reviewed periodically and their meeting places changed from time to time to broaden interest and to allow more branches to experience the fellow-

ship and inspiration which come from meeting together.

Toc H could and should help to develop community in newly built areas, especially in the new towns.

We need to advertise the Movement more and our productions should be more attractive. The public needs to be better informed as to what we are and what we are doing.

Amalgamation of branches in close proximity would enable them to tackle larger projects.

Flashing lights to the rescue

On two recent occasions the value of the Toc H emergency help schemes has been underlined. In Dover, Kent, the flashing light was seen by neighbours when an elderly lady collapsed in her home and as a result medical attention reached her quickly. Dover branch, incidentally, have now installed over 150 flashing lights.

The other incident was in Wolverton, Buckinghamshire, where the emergency scheme uses bells instead of flashing lights. A 90 year old woman fell out of bed. Thanks to the bell, help arrived

Conway's 'best ever' camp

The annual camp for boys from Stoke on Trent, held at the village hall, Dwygyfylchi, in North Wales, is regarded as having been one of the most successful ever. Conway branch members arranged the usual wide range of outings and activities for the 12 boys, and camp leader John Hayes wrote afterwards: 'It was altogether a successful week and the boys were among the best behaved I have met. The location of the village hall, with its surroundings of hillside, moorland and stream, provides an ideal environment for a holiday and gives scope for boys to be able to find their own amusements without the necessity of continual adult organisation and supervision.'

within minutes. Without it she might well have had to wait six hours, until her son brought her a meal.

South Ruislip branch, in Middlesex, sought the help of a local secondary school in the manufacture of flashing lights and has received wholehearted co-operation from both boys and members of staff, in particular the physics master and the woodwork master. The school has also secured a generous donation of ten transistors free of charge from Mullards.

TRAFFIC CENSUS

Members in Dalton, Lancashire, were disturbed to learn that construction of the planned by-pass round their village had been postponed for at least ten years. As the first step in a campaign to reverse this decision they undertook a census of all traffic passing through the village in one 12 hour period. The total number of vehicles counted was a staggering 9,768. The campaign has the support of the local paper, the *Barrow News*.

EXTENSION BY FLAG

Plymouth District's flag day didn't only raise £90 for Toc H funds. It also brought two new members. The collectors were armed with leaflets about the Movement to hand out and a lot of people stopped to ask questions about Toc H. Five people were sufficiently interested to leave their names and addresses and two of them have now joined Plymouth branch. The District are already negotiating for another flag day next year.

Treorchy choir's Cheshire Home visit

Residents of Greathouse Cheshire Home in Wiltshire have had the opportunity on several occasions to visit the Treorchy Male Voice Choir in South Wales, and to attend their rehearsals. In October the Choir paid the Home a return visit. Members of the Choir and their friends—some 95 people in all—spent the afternoon at Great-house. The afternoon began with an informal concert on the lawn, followed by tea. 'Afterwards,' writes John Smith, chairman of Greathouse branch of Toc H, 'they mingled with us to talk and look over the Home. I'm afraid this get-together ended all too soon, but we earnestly hope it is only the first of many.' In the evening the

Choir gave a concert of sacred music in St Andrew's Parish Church, Chippenham. The concert, which was attended by a capacity audience, was arranged by Chippenham branch and raised nearly £300 for Greathouse. 'The Choir's performance,' writes Chippenham branch chairman, Reg Coates, 'enthralled the audience and the appreciation shown subsequently has been overwhelming. It is clearly not possible to express in words such a spiritual experience as was provided by this visit. The financial benefit to Greathouse was considerable, but even greater than this is the bond of friendship which has been strengthened.'



WORK WITH LEPERS

Toc H branches have, over the years, raised considerable sums for leprosy relief. Palayankottai branch in India, however, is one of very few which has the opportunity to work personally with lepers. Some years ago they were given a piece of land to use for the treatment of lepers. They built 20 thatched huts there and made arrangements for medical treatment. They are still responsible for the upkeep of the huts and for supplying clothing to the lepers, and both Christians and non-Christians contribute to the branch's money raising efforts for this purpose. Now the branch has

received an encouraging boost in the shape of a cheque for £50. This sum, left to Toc H for work with lepers under the terms of the Will of Elsie Crook, of Birmingham, who died in May 1970, has been forwarded to Palayankottai.

Broadcast by phone

One man who thinks crossed lines are a great invention is a Dundee football fan who recently lifted his phone to make a call and found himself listening to the Toc H hospital commentary on the Dundee United game. Thereafter he lifted the phone at intervals throughout the evening to get the latest score.

Luton Girls' Choir visits Clacton

In October we reported the contribution of Toc H to an exhibition to mark the centenary of Clacton-on-Sea. Since then Clacton branch has undertaken a more ambitious contribution to the festivities—the sponsoring of a concert by the Luton Girls' Choir. 'The 1000 seater Princes Theatre in the Town Hall was a complete sell-out,' writes Gordon Minshull. 'The 50 odd choir members were entertained for the weekend in the homes of members and friends. In addition to the £120 clear profit, over £30 was taken in our model minibus at the door on the way out'. The proceeds will go towards the cost of maintaining and replacing the branch minibus.

CARNIVAL LAMP

The Stourport Carnival is a big event attracting crowds from Birmingham and the Black Country. This year's entry from Toc H featured a four foot long Lamp made from firewood and newspaper, and capped with a dustbin lid. There was a 12 volt 'flame', run from the car battery. The structure at the back of the car carried details of the branch's jobs and activities.

Photo: Doug Duebert

A sign for Dor Knap

Nancy Griffiths

On October 9 a wrought iron sign showing the Toc H Lamp and the words 'Dor Knap' was fixed to the Dor Knap Chapel wall, near the bell, and an outline of the Lamp in iron was put on the main door, in the centre of the ring of iron studs.

This was the work of Bob Strathmann, member of Croydon branch and chairman of the Croydon Centre Committee. Contributions towards the cost came from members of Croydon branch. Bob is a skilled craftsman in wrought iron work and spent many hours working on the signs in his spare time.

The sign at Dor Knap is one more example of the skills of members which have improved and beautified the house.

Gift of an 'Applanation Tonometer'

Do you know what an 'Applanation Tonometer' is? Neither did we. But apparently it's a 'hand held instrument used to measure the pressure of fluid in the eye in cases of glaucoma'. And it's what Bletchley branch plans to give to the outpatient department of the local hospital to mark the tenth anniversary of the branch. At the anniversary dinner Les Walpole, projects secretary of the branch, announced the launching of an appeal to raise the £270 the instrument costs. Within minutes over a third of this sum had been promised. Cecil Bowden, Bletchley Council chairman, and a founder member of the branch, announced that he would recommend to the Bletchley Week Committee that £100 of the profits from the Week should be devoted to this project.

Encouraging local artists

The sponsoring of art exhibitions seems to be catching on in different parts of the country. News of two exhibitions reaches us this month. An art teacher in Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire, staged an exhibition of paintings and collages by some of her pupils in the Toc H room in September. The room made a very effective, intimate picture gallery. The proceeds, totalling £19, went to support local Toc H work.

Hackney branch, in London, are sponsoring a two day exhibition of paintings and photographs at the Hackney Mark, Prideaux House, this month. The branch hopes that this exhibition will be an encouragement to local artists.

SQUARE ONE

None but the worthy must be retained in membership, and whatever the cost the unworthy must be expelled.

Toc H Journal November 1929

In brief...

The sponsored swim organised by Trent Valley District raised £850, all of which has been sent to HQ. This is a fund raising method which can be recommended to other Districts. It creates enormous interest from community and newspapers; involves the young in Toc H affairs, and raises money—fast!

Newport men and women were involved in the Old People's Week in October. Various activities were arranged and Toc H provided a supper and coach trip around the Wye Valley.

Concerned that their village is disappearing under the slow advance of urbanisation, Broughton Astley Toc H are proposing a 'gala weekend' in 1972. They are anxious to preserve the village community life and other organisations are being urged to take part.

About 200 members attended the Fylde District Festival at the end of September. The Rev John Jones, recently retired from the staff, preached the sermon.

Corwen branch, Denbighshire, has extended its 'Opportunity Knocks' competition to include primary and secondary school children. Competitions for both categories were organised in October.

Louth branch in Grimsby is in the forefront of a plan to restart the 'lovely Louth' event next year. Shopkeepers are asked to decorate their property with flowers and garlands.

Councillor Wilfred Clarke told Potters Bar Council 'you have a moral obligation to leave no stone unturned to find a suitable site (for Toc H) and not one on the periphery of the town'. The local branch recently lost its meeting place to make room for a car park.

Ely branch has donated two talking book machines to the local Blind Association.

The nine members of the Hayle women's branch in Cornwall plan to take elderly people from a local hospital to see the Christmas lights. They conduct a monthly service at another old people's home.

The women's branch in Cromer, Norfolk, entertained the residents of Grove Cheshire Home in September. Others involved in the day out were the St John's Ambulance Brigade, the parish church youth club and, of course, the men's branch.

Speaker at the Bideford branch rededication, attended by 40 members of neighbouring branches, was Gilbert Francis, General Secretary.

The provision of refreshments for a fortnight at this year's *Son et Lumière* in Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, was undertaken by the women's branch.



Faces at Headquarters—seven Mission where?

All Hallows is playing an important part in bringing the Christian gospel to the many workers who commute to the City. In this second article about the church the Vicar, Colin Cuttall, outlines this vital ministry.

The ruins of All Hallows had scarcely ceased to smoulder when the small change of ordinary folk poured into boxes which Tubby had placed outside the church. We owe it to him that the church was rebuilt at all: a leading ecclesiastic, speaking of City churches in general, wrote in terms of a 'valuable building site' which spelt 'immense financial resources for the Mission of the Church'. Incredible but alas, true.

Mission Where? Where are the supposed Elysian fields of missionary endeavour if not here at the heart of our economic structure, where policies are made of far-reaching consequence not only for the vast commuting population which takes over our parish from Monday to Friday but also for uncounted numbers of people, white, black and brown, the world over?

Fortunately very few now think of a church on the Hill which functions mainly for the benefit of people with ties of various kinds who come in all weathers to worship with us on Sundays. But it has not been easy to get rid of the false image of two ministries and two congregations, with different objectives and almost separate paths.

I have never had any doubt in my own mind that the primary ministry of All Hallows is to the City worker in EC3—to the commuter, the wayfarer, the so-called outsider. The value of the Sunday worshipping community is that its prayer life should consciously undergird the total ministry of All Hallows. At the heart of the life of All Hallows there has to be a group of caring men and women who know that to put Christianity in a religious box labelled 'For Sundays Only' is to ensure the suffocation of the Gospel.

As it happens, we can rely on an understanding and missionary-hearted nucleus which accepts responsibility for the church's daily outreach and bears it up before God. I cannot produce any statistical evidence of success. I only know that if we were to sell off these centres of ministry in the Square Mile, as a few powerful voices have advocated, the Church of God would be signing an instrument of abdication in the one area where it should be making its strongest stand.

As a result of these basic convictions about the role of a city church, there is a day by day ministry of shoe leather which has been productive of a great variety of human relations at every level in our business parish. Much of the story cannot be told. It is too personal. But it is real.

The building itself preaches a powerful sermon every minute of the day. The visible symbol of a lovely church, probably the loveliest thing on the new Tower Hill, seen against the background of high-rise office blocks, is saying something of the first importance to churchmen and the so-called unchurched alike. Churchmen cannot leave their faith behind them in suburbia and expect to cut any ice in their Christian vocation at work. The unchurched have again and again shown an awareness of the relevance of the City ministry lacking in some churchmen.

There is a simple logic in this situation. If what a City church stands for doesn't matter a row of beans in the working half of life, Christian faith is not likely to count for much in the shaping of the new suburban community. The religious isolationist is, I hope, a dying phenomenon.

Gerry Culwick is one of those rare people whose lives read like an adventure story. In 1928 after studying at Oxford she went to Tanganyika. Her husband was in Colonial Administration. Interested in social studies and tribal life they produced a book called *Ubena of the Rivers*. During the war Gerry worked in the Social Services Department at the Colonial Office and in 1947 she left for the Sudan where she stayed until 1956 working for the Government and the Gezira Board on Social Studies. After a year's sabbatical in India she worked with a doctor in the World Health Organisation among Arab refugees. Gerry was packed to go to Korea in 1956, as a member of a UN Reconstruction Unit, but the medical authorities said 'that's enough'. In 1957 she joined the Central Council for Health Education in Britain and before taking her present appointment, as Parish Secretary, worked for seven years at a centre for women suffering from drink and drug addictions. **Jack Bellamy** is a quietly spoken Welshman from Abercynon who started work in the pits when he was



Gerry Cuwick



Jack Bellamy



Sidney Higbee



Gladys Higbee



Gordon Phillips



Joan Davies

13. He left Wales during the depression and lives at Pinner. He is the coluntary assistant Verger, and claims that 'helping the church' is his hobby. For 34 years he worked with the bullion company, Rothschilds, and first used All Hallows during the last war. He recalled that his son was a Scout with the Lord Mayor's Own troop which used to meet in a hut next to the church. His son is living in America and Jack's hobbies include crosswords and photography.

Sidney and Gladys Higbee. It would be a crime to feature this delightful pair separately. They are a double act—an expression which in their case is meant literally. They have been married for 37 years after attending the same school in south London and living in the same street. Gladys' mother used to give Sidney piano lessons at sixpence an hour and he ended up stealing the daughter. Sidney is Parish Clerk, and they live in a flat at the church. They have four children and ten grandchildren. In the early days the family used to invite local children into the house for a sing-song and they still enjoy a reunion when they can all take some musical part. Sidney joined Toc H about ten years ago at Mark XX. During the war he served with the Ambulance Service before joining the RAF as a flight mechanic. Sidney has always nursed an ambition to fly an aeroplane. For eleven years he was supervisor and later manager with the Co-operative Movement and for a time they managed their own dairy business. Many members will remember Sidney and Gladys when they were housekeepers at headquarters. They are both passionately fond of the city and Sidney proudly claims to be a Freeman and member of the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks. Both of them would rather talk about their children. Not without reason for their eldest son is a London policeman with commendations for bravery and another is an art therapy teacher with mental patients at Maidstone hospital, with three acceptances at the Royal Academy. The third son and the daughter have inherited their parents' passion for music and Alan sings lead parts with the Walthamstow Operatic Society. Gladys is quiet about her own talents but confesses to enjoying catering, which she does in a masterly fashion, and needlework and dressmaking.

Gordon Phillips. Next time you are in All Hallows church and the organ is playing spare a glance for the organ loft above the Stuart coat of arms and there you will see the man who is frequently heard but rarely appears in public. Gordon is the organist and has been since 1956 when the Nave was being rebuilt. The present organ was built to his specification and for the re-dedication Gordon composed a special work. He loves Toc H services and looks forward to them 'because Toc H members can always be guaranteed to lift their voices in song'. He is a tutor at the Royal Society for Church Music and gives organ recitals around the country as well as lessons to pupils. City workers in their hundreds have attended the Thursday midday recitals at the church and 1400 programmes have been notched up since they started in 1957. Apart from one brief period Gordon has played for all of them. He was born at Slough and studied music at Nottingham. Up to 22 years of age he was self-taught and recalls that his first professional engagement was when he was five. He remembered a hymn tune and received sixpence. When Gordon was 12 he visited Notre Dame and there made up his mind to be an organist. During the war he was a training officer with the fire brigade and remembers seeing St Anne's Soho in flames. He mourns the loss of the great historical churches of London. He is not married and admits to being 'one of those completely unworthy people who has everything'. His home is filled with music and musical instruments and he practises four hours every day. He has no radio or television but an enormous collection of music. He is a broadcaster and Professor of Harpsichord at the London College of Music. 'Edward Heath is hot stuff and could have been good', he said. 'He is a great loss to the world of organ music.'

Joan Davies is a typical Londoner. Bright, cheerful and always ready for a joke with a broad smile. She is a cleaner at the church and has been for ten years. Although she lives with her family of three children at Camberwell Green she travels to All Hallows for services. 'The people are always so friendly here,' she said, 'and this is my church now.' A glutton for punishment, Joan also joins 'The Friday Night Gang' a group of volunteers who happily take on the huge job of cleaning the church.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

Continued from page 205

Principal Officers re-appointed

The four Principal Officers of Toc H—Sandy Giles (Director), George Liddle (Hon Treasurer), Bob Knight (Headquarters Padre) and Gilbert Francis (General Secretary)—were re-appointed by the Council for a further period of three years. During the discussion on Sandy's re-appointment the question of the kind of leadership Toc H requires was raised. John Trimmer (Spring Parks) was one of the speakers who felt the need of firm leadership from the top. While he appreciated the thinking behind the concept of team leadership he doubted its 'effectiveness in our present position'. Tom Gulliver (Central Executive), on the other hand, said: 'We interpret the Four Points in our own locality. We have to provide the leadership. It is not directives from above. It is a collective responsibility.'



Alan Brooke, last year's chairman of the Methods Committee

Council news in brief

'Hon Staff' title dropped

The Council approved a proposal 'that the title "Hon Staff" shall no longer be used and that titles for such appointments shall be determined by the function performed.' In presenting the proposal on behalf of the Central Executive, Tom Gulliver reminded Councilors that the title 'Hon Staff' replaced 'Hon Area Correspondent', as used by the men, and 'Staff Deputy', as used by the women. The attempt to standardise had caused some confusion because of the very varying functions performed by different members of the Hon Staff. Some had primarily an administrative function, others primarily a pastoral one. Some operated on an Area basis, others in one District only.

Life membership

The Council rejected a proposal put forward by John Grocott (Leicester) for the establishment of Life Membership of Toc H. This would be offered to members 'attaining the age of 75 years and/or 45 years of service to the Movement'. The Life Membership fee would be £10.

Presidents & Vice-Presidents

The Council agreed that Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Toc H should be automatically invited to meetings of the Central Council. The resolution was proposed by Ken Darby (Coalville & Ivanhoe).

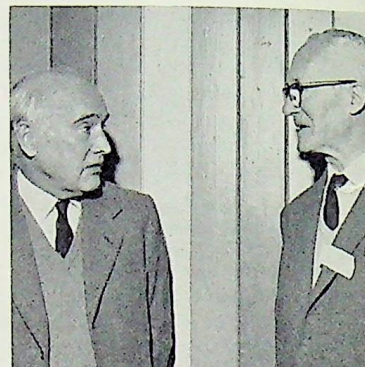
Group discussion

During the Saturday afternoon the Council broke into groups to discuss the reports of the Planning Committee and of the Decentralisa-

tion Working Party. There was no time to discuss these reports in open session, but points raised in groups will be conveyed to the new Planning Committee.

Dean of Johannesburg

The Council sent a message of sympathy and encouragement to the Very Rev Gonville French-Beytagh, Dean of Johannesburg, a fellow member of Toc H.



Top: George Liddle (Hon Treasurer) talks to Sir James Brown (right), one of the Movement's Trustees

Above: Marcia Nicholson (Central Executive) relaxes between sessions with John Forbes (Western Regional staff)

Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three Magazine*, Toc H, 41 Trinity Square, London EC3N 4DJ. Telephone 01-709 0472.



BRUGES, BELGIUM. Hotel Jacobs welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city. Within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of coast. Good food and comfortable accommodation in friendly atmosphere. Pleasant restaurant, bar and lounge. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Write for brochure

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HOW ARE YOU DOING? Regretfully it has to be admitted that the reply of the Toc H Stamp Appeal, which has been raising money for the Family Purse for over 40 years, has to be 'Not so good'. Please send all your used postage stamps and discarded collections to Charles Wake, 7 Leyburn Grove, Paignton, Devon TQ4 5JH.

WARDEN. Historic manor house in lovely countryside overlooking sea, 50 miles London. House party (with log fires) January 14-16; cost £3.50. Open for Christmas (host, John Cole, who will also be leading the 1972 summer season July 8-September 16). Available winter, spring and early summer for Toc H conferences. Write: Mrs Kathleen Stanley, resident at Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Kent—Tel Eastchurch 238.

POETRY AT ALISON HOUSE. If you like writing poetry, reading poetry or listening to poetry make a note of the date of next year's poetry weekend at Alison House—May 12-14. For details write to Keith Rea at headquarters.

The book for Christmas *Yours is the Glory*

'*Yours is the Glory* is excellent. I shall give one to my vicar for Christmas.'

A Vice-President of Toc H

'The subjects for prayer are live issues in the real world, and there is nothing fussy or pious.'

SPCK

'The book will prove valuable in many contexts beyond Toc H.'

Church Times

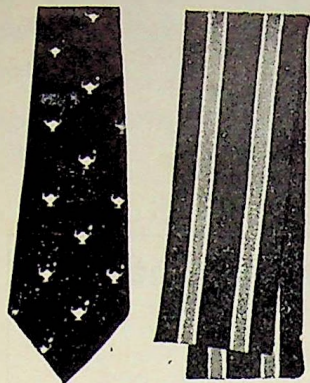
'*Yours is the Glory* has been well accepted by both our men's and women's branches—all members have purchased copies.'

Emlyn Lloyd, Mold

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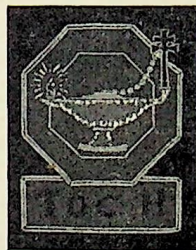
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